

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. 57

NOVEMBER, 1942

NO. 5

California and Western Medicine

Owned and Published by the
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Four Fifty Sutter, Room 2004, San Francisco
Phone DOuglas 0062

Address editorial communications to Dr. George H. Kress as
per address above. Address business and advertising commu-
nications to John Hunton.

EDITOR GEORGE H. KRESS

Committee on Publications

George W. Walker (Chairman).....Fresno 1943
F. Burton Jones.....Vallejo 1944
Francis E. Toomey.....San Diego 1945
Secretary and Editor ex officio

Editorial Board

Roster of Editorial Board appears in this issue at beginning of
California Medical Association department. (For page
number see index below.)

Advertisements.—The Journal is published on the seventh of
the month. Advertising copy must be received not later than the
fifteenth of the month preceding issue. Advertising rates will
be sent on request.

BUSINESS MANAGER JOHN HUNTON

Advertising Representative for Northern California
L. J. FLYNN, 544 Market Street, San Francisco (DOuglas 0577)

Copyright, 1942, by the California Medical Association

Subscription prices, \$5 (\$6 for foreign countries); single
copies, 50 cents.

Volumes begin with the first of January and the first of July.
Subscriptions may commence at any time.

Change of Address.—Request for change of address should give
both the old and the new address. No change in any address on
the mailing list will be made until such change is requested by
county secretaries or by the member concerned.

**Responsibility for Statements and Conclusions in Original
Articles.**—Authors are responsible for all statements, conclusions
and methods of presenting their subjects. These may or may not
be in harmony with the views of the editorial staff. It is aimed
to permit authors to have as wide latitude as the general policy
of the Journal and the demands on its space may permit. The
right to reduce or reject any article is always reserved.

Contributions—Exclusive Publication.—Articles are accepted
for publication on condition that they are contributed solely to
this Journal. Now copy must be sent to the editorial office not
later than the fifteenth day of the month preceding the date of
publication.

Contributions—Length of Articles; Extra Costs.—Original
articles should not exceed three and one-half pages in length.
Authors who wish articles of greater length printed must pay
extra costs involved. Illustrations in excess of amount allowed
by the Council are also extra.

Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND
WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules re-
garding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the prepa-
ration of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that
contributors to this Journal write to its offices requesting a copy
of this leaflet.

DEPARTMENT INDEX

(Itemized Index of Articles is printed on Front Cover)

	PAGE
Editorials	283
Editorial Comment	289
Original Articles: Scientific and General	292
California Medical Association	314
Official Business	314
California Committee on Participation of the Medi- cal Profession in the War Effort.. . . .	314
Committee on Postgraduate Activities	319
Committee on Industrial Practice	321
Committee on Membership	322
Committee on Medical Economics	322
County Societies: Membership! In Memoriam	324
Woman's Auxiliary	325
California Physicians' Service	326
Miscellany: News; Press Clippings	329
Medical Jurisprudence	336
Letters	336
Twenty-Five Years Ago; State Examining Board	340

EDITORIALS

BASIC SCIENCE INITIATIVE DEFEATED: A CALAMITY FOR CALIFORNIA CITIZENS

**Basic Science Initiative Was Not Approved
by California Electorate.**—Voters who went to
the polls on November 3rd—through the ballots
they cast—laid the foundation for many surprises.
Not the least of these was the sad fate meted out
to the Basic Science Initiative (Proposition No.
3), for which, in 9,356, out of a total of the
State's 14,494 precincts, votes to the number of
1,002,352 were cast; a total of 385,444 votes hav-
ing been deposited in favor of the Basic Science
Act, with the greater total of 616,908 against it.
In other words, Proposition No. 3, according to
returns available at the time of this writing, went
down to defeat by the massive number of 231,464
votes!*

* * *

How the California Counties Voted.—The
Basic Science Initiative was overwhelmed in
in nearly all sections of the State, the only counties
having a majority of votes in favor of the law that
would have made it mandatory for all healing-art
practitioners to have had preliminary education of
what may be said to be the equivalent of a full
high school course and one year of college work,
being listed below (with the favorable majority
figures in parenthesis): Marin (61); San Benito
(57); San Francisco (16,065); San Mateo (112).

* * *

In Retrospect.—That so desirable an addi-
tion to the statutes as the Basic Science Act
should have been lost, with a majority of prac-
tically 500,000 or more votes cast against it—a
measure that would have made for greater con-
servation of public health through supply of better
trained practitioners of all kinds—is so surprising
that it may be desirable to make further comment.

* * *

State Association's Record Above Reproach.
—In relation to the California Medical Associa-
tion, no apologies are made for sponsoring a law
that would have given to the citizens of Califor-
nia a better healing-art service, with greater pro-
tection of health and life.

It is unfortunate that the drafting of statutes
necessitates the use of legal phraseology that can
be distorted by specious interests. In the recent
campaign, some of the "Political Notices" against

* For a partial compilation of the vote on No. 3, by
counties, see in this issue, on page 335.

the proposed Basic Science Law, and which, in display form, appeared in the newspapers, reeked with misstatements so sordid and far from the truth, that one might have been tempted to think that one was reading the text of a speech by a Bowery politician of former years.

* * *

Depths to Which a Smear Campaign Can Descend.—Take, for instance, the numerous quarter-page advertisements which carried a photograph of Ray Lyman Wilbur, Chancellor of Stanford University, with display text as follows:

"The man who would be medical Dictator of California. Amazing facts from authentic sources. Here are actual photographs from the book, 'The Medical Trust Unmasked,' by John L. Spivat."

And so on, ad nauseam.

Now, to Californians and, also to the medical profession and citizenry of the United States, Ray Lyman Wilbur, M. D., Chancellor of Stanford University, Chairman of the National Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, and former Secretary of Commerce of the United States, needs no defense. His record of achievement, from the time he began the practice of medicine in Palo Alto through all the years which followed, is an open book and is well known. That the healing-art groups who opposed the Basic Science Initiative should have found it necessary to descend to the low levels evidenced by the implications against Chancellor Wilbur and inserted in the above and other statements and publications, may be a partial explanation of why many voters may have been misled—so that, being in doubt, they cast their votes in the negative. (For the information of readers who may not have read the "Political Notice" referred to, the text comment appears in this issue in the News Department, on page 334.)

The appearance of these canards on the days immediately preceding the election, plus extensive mouthings of similar import over radio chains, created a situation which the Public Health League and those in charge of the campaign found difficult to meet. For, self-understandingly, organized medicine and dentistry, as represented by their State organizations and their friends, could not debase themselves by sponsoring similar statements, to spike previously presented canards and smears.

* * *

Policy for the Future.—Now as for the future—in regard to Basic Science objectives—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has no right to speak for the constituted C.M.A. authorities of the present or the days to come. The editor is tempted to believe, however, that no immediate effort will be made to resurrect the measure, and for the following reasons: Nonsectarian Doctors of Medicine, through their sixty-seven accredited schools of medicine, do not themselves need a law demanding that all licentiates shall

have given prior evidence of education equivalent to that comprehended in the work of a high school course and one year of college work. The medical schools comprising the Association of American Medical Colleges for years have demanded not only the above, but at least three instead of one year of college work. Standards of the accredited medical schools of the United States are not surpassed anywhere.

* * *

Cultist Groups Welcome to the Standards They Have Set for Themselves.—If the cultist groups of the healing-art are content to accept as sufficient preliminary education for their licentiates, a "reading, writing and arithmetic" standard, or—no matter how high-sounding their catalog announcements may be—an elastic interpretation of high school or equivalent education, that is their privilege. Such a policy will take them just as far as that kind of comparative training usually does in any walk of life. If victory for a limited educational standard is consolation for their ballot victory on November 3rd, sectarian groups are welcome to it, even though it be not for the good of the citizenry of California.

* * *

Full Reports Will be Made.—To carry on the clean campaign of the medical and dental professions, that was under the leadership of the California Public Health League, it was necessary for the Council of the California Medical Association to allocate funds up to sixty thousand dollars. That is a large sum of money, and in view of the action of the California electorate, it would now seem that it might have been put to better use. However, at the Coronado and Del Monte meetings, the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association gave definite instructions to submit a Basic Science Initiative to the voters of California. The campaign was fully on when the events of December 7, 1941, took place, transforming conditions into a wartime set-up—a contingency that was not foreseen by the C.M.A. House of Delegates.

At the next meeting of the Council, full report of the campaign will be made by the Association's Executive Secretary, who coöperated with the Public Health League, and in due course be presented to the House of Delegates at the annual session to be held in May, 1943.

* * *

Work Ahead is to Meet Other Responsibilities.—So that for the present, as the profession takes up consideration of more immediate responsibilities concerned with military, industrial and civilian practice, it may be permissible for us all, in relation to Proposition No. 3, to breathe for it the prayer,

*Requiescat in Pace.**

* A list of references to articles in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on Basic Science and Qualifying Certificate laws appeared in the issue of August, 1941, on page 104. A brief historical outline was given in the same number on page 56.